



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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ADDITIONAL TEEN POSSIBLY EXPOSED TO RABIES IN VISTA

County Health Officials Now Searching for a Third Boy Who May Have Been Exposed to Rabies

The Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is asking for the public's help in identifying three boys who may have been exposed to rabies.

On Sunday, July 10 the boys brought a bat into the PETCO store located at 520 Hacienda Drive in Vista between 5:00 and 7:00 pm. The County Public Health Laboratory has since confirmed the bat was infected with rabies.

County officials are concerned that the boys may have handled the rabid bat and would like to interview them to determine if they were exposed to this disease. The three boys are described as Caucasian and approximately 12 to 13 years of age.

"The health and safety of the boys is our main concern," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "We want to make absolutely sure these boys have not been exposed to this deadly disease."

Rabies transmission may occur if a bat bites someone, or if a bat's saliva comes in contact with a person's eyes, nose, mouth or open wound. Symptoms of rabies in people can take weeks or months to develop after exposure to a rabid animal has occurred.

Anyone who knows the identity of the boys who turned in the bat are urged to contact County health officials at (619) 692-8499.

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